

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00853 141030Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15
STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /128 W
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R 140901Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4428
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY THENS
USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, MU, TC
SUBJECT: OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENTS IN OMAN

REF ABU DHABI 1602

1. PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT OMAN (PDO) RECENTLY DISCOVERED A NEW OIL FIELD AT BIRBA IN THE AMAL-MARMUL OILFIELD AREA. THIS WILL RAISE THE EVENTUAL PRODUCTION LEVELS IN THE SOUTHERN FIELDS TO AROUND 50,000 BARRELS PER DAY. LIKE MOST OF THE OIL PREVIOUSLY DISCOVERED, THE BIRBA OIL IS HEAVY (20 API).

2. QUINTANA-GULF HAS DISCOVERED GAS AT SANINAH NEAR THE BORDER WITH THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES SOUTH OF BURAIMI. THE GAS IS TO BE EXPORTED BY PIPELINE TO DUBAI TO POWER ITS INDUSTRIAL AREA. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONLY A SMALL SECTION OF THE PIPELINE WILL
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BE IN OMAN, ALTHOUGH THE EXACT ROUTE IS NOT YET DECIDED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. A SOURCE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM TOLD US THAT AT THE MOMENT ALL THEY WERE SURE OF WAS THAT GAS IS PRESENT AT SANINAH IN COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE QUANTITIES. HE SAID THERE WERE NO ESTIMATES THUS FAR ON THE SIZE OF THE FIELD. A SECOND WELL IS NOW BEING DRILLED TO MAKE SUCH

AN ESTIMATE POSSIBLE.

4. THIS LACK OF DETAIL HAS NOT PREVENTED SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM BEING EXCITED ABOUT GAS DISCOVERIES AT SANINAH. QUINTANA FEELS THE STRIKE TO BE BETTER THAN NOTHING, BUT NOT AS GOOD AS STRIKING OIL. OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE LONG-RUN ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE DUBAI INDUSTRIAL AREA, BUT OMAN IS GLAD TO SELL THE GAS ANYWAY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
SIZER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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